

APPLICANT: Häner, Paul, et al.
SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned
FILED: Herewith
Page 4

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus [(1)] for the preparation of an electrochemical sensor [(2)] in order to provide [(its)] a sensor head [(2a)] with an electrolyte [(3)] and a membrane [(4)], the apparatus comprising a holding means [(6)] for the sensor [(2)], a means for dispensing the electrolyte [(7)] and [(also)] a means for dispensing the membrane [(8)].
2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, [(characterized in that)] wherein the holding means, the means for dispensing the electrolyte [(7)] and [(also)] the means for dispensing the membrane [(8)] are arranged within a [(com-mon)] common housing [(5)] and [(in that)] wherein the means for dispensing the electrolyte [(7)] and [(also)] the means for dispensing the membrane [(8)] are displaceably mounted with respect to the holding means [(6)].
3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with [(one of the preceding claims, characterized in that)] claim 1, wherein the means for dispensing the electrolyte [(7)] and [(also)] the means for dispensing the membrane [(8)] are displaceably mounted with respect to the holding means [(6), in that]] and the means for dispensing [(dispens-ing)] the electrolyte [(7)] is positionable with respect to the holding means [(6)] such that the electrolyte [(3) can]] is able to be supplied to the sensor [(2)] held in the holding means [(6) and in that]] and the means for dispensing the membrane [(8) can]] is able to be positioned with respect to the holding means [(6) in such a way]] so that the membrane [(4) can]] is able to be connected to the sensor [(2)] held in the holding means [(6)].
4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with [(one of the preceding claims, characterized in that)] claim 1, wherein the means for dispensing the membrane [(8) is designed in such a way that]] is to dispense the membrane such that the membrane [(4) can]]

APPLICANT: Häner, Paul, et al.
SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned
FILED: Herewith

Page 5

is able to be secured to the sensor head [(2a)] with a reproducible [[press-ing]] pressing force.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with [[one of the preceding claims, characterized in that]] claim 1, wherein the means for dispensing the membrane [(8)] includes at least a pressing body [(8e) with]] including at least a pressing surface [[sur-face (8g)]], wherein the pressing body [(8e)] is arranged such that the pressing surface [(8g)] contacts the membrane [(4)] in a real manner during the dispensing of the membrane [(4)] in order to displace electrolyte located between the membrane [[mem-brane (4)] and the sensor head [(2a)] in such a way that the sensor connected to the membrane [(4)] has a reproducible layer thickness of the electrolyte [(3), in particular and has a uniform a layer thickness of the electrolyte (3)], between the sensor head [(2a)] and the membrane [(4)].

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with [[one of the preceding claims,]] claim 1 comprising [[in addition]] a means for the cleaning of the sensor head [(9) which]] wherein the means for the cleaning of the sensor head is displaceably mounted with respect to the holding means [(6)], wherein the means for cleaning [(9) can]] is able to be so positioned with respect to the holding means [(6) that it]] so that the means for cleaning mechanically cleans the sensor head [(2a)] of the sensor [(2)] held in the holding means [(6)].

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with [[one of the preceding claims,]] claim 1, comprising [[in addition]] a means for the removal of a membrane [(10), which is]] the means for the removal of a membrane being displaceably mounted with respect to the holding means [(6)], wherein the means for the removal of the membrane [(10) can]] is able to be positioned with respect to the holding means [(6)] such that after the removal of a used membrane [(4)] the sensor [(2) can]] is able to be supplied to the holding means [(6)].

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with [[one of the preceding claims, characterized in that]] claim 1, wherein at least the means for the dispensing of the electrolyte

APPLICANT: Häner, Paul, et al.
SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned
FILED: Herewith

Page 6

[[(7)]] and [[also]] the means for the dispensing of the membrane [[(8)]] are secured to a common carrier [[(11)]], wherein the means for the cleaning [[(9)]] and [[also]] the means for the removal of the membrane [[(10) are preferably also]] are secured to the common carrier [[(11)]].

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with [[one of the preceding claims,]] claim 1 comprising a housing [[(5)]] with a housing base [[(5b) and also]] and a housing cover [[(5a)]] wherein the holding means [[(6)]] for the sensor [[(2)]] is [[ar-ranged]] arranged in the housing base [[(5b)]].

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 9, characterized in that the housing base [[(5b) and also]] and the housing cover [[(5a)]] are each designed as a half shell which form a common inner space for the reception of at least the means for the dispensing of the electrolyte [[(7) and also]] and of the means for the dispensing of the membrane [[(8) and preferably]] and form a common inner space for the reception of [[all means (6, 7, 8, 9, 10)]] the holding means for the sensor, the means for dispensing the electrolyte, the means for dispensing the membrane, a means for the cleaning of the sensor head and a means for the removal of a membrane.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 10[[, characterized in that]] wherein the housing base [[(5b) and also]] and the housing cover [[(5a)]] are releasably connectable to one another [[, in particular by a mutual rotary movement]].

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance [[with one of the claims 9 to 11,]] claim 10 characterized in that the housing [[(5) also]] includes at least an actuating means [[(5c)]] movably disposed with respect to the housing cover [[(5a)]] which has an operative connection [[(5d)]] to at least one of [[the means (7, 8, 9, 10)]] the means for dispensing the electrolyte, the means for dispensing the membrane, the means for the cleaning of the sensor head and the means for the removal of a membrane in order to bring about a force and/or a movement on [[the means (7, 8, 9, 10)]] at least one of the means for dispensing the

APPLICANT: Häner, Paul, et al.
SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned
FILED: Herewith
Page 7

electrolyte, the means for dispensing the membrane, the means for the cleaning of the sensor head and the means for the removal of a membrane via the actuating means [(5c)].

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with claim 12, [[characterized in that]] wherein the actuating means [(5c)] is displaceably mounted essentially in the vertical direction with respect to the housing cover [(5a)].

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in accordance with [[one of the claims 8 to 13, characterized in that]] claim 8, wherein the common carrier [(11)] is formed as an exchangeable [[and disposable]] part [, and in particular as a disposable part]].

15. (Currently Amended) [[Common]] A common carrier [(11)] for an apparatus in accordance with [[one of the preceding claims,]] claim 1, comprising at least one container [(7d)] filled with electrolyte [(7e)] and [[also]] a membrane [(4)].

16. (Currently Amended) [[Common]] A common carrier [(11)] in accordance with claim 15, comprising [[in addition,]] a means for [[the]] cleaning [(9)] and [[also]] a means for the removal of the membrane [(10)].

17. (Currently Amended) [[Common]] A common carrier [(11)] in accordance with claim 15 [[one of the claims 15 or 16, characterized in that it has]] comprising a first [[connec-tion]] connection part [(11d)] which defines an axis of rotation and [[in that]] and wherein the container [(7d) and also]] and the membrane [(4) and in particular also the a means for cleaning (9) and also the a means for the removal of the membrane (10)] are arranged spaced apart in a peripheral direction with respect to the axis of rotation.

18. (Currently Amended) [[Common]] A common carrier [(11)] in accordance with claim 17, [[characterized in that]] wherein the means for the removal of the [[mem-brane]] membrane [(10)], the means for cleaning [(9)], the means for the dispensing of the electrolyte [(7)] and the means for the dispensing of the membrane [(8)] are ar-ranged following one another in the peripheral direction.

APPLICANT: Häner, Paul, et al.
SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned
FILED: Herewith
Page 8

19. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] A method for the preparation of an electrochemical sensor [(2)] in order to provide a sensor head [(2a)] with an electrolyte [(3)] and a membrane [(4), characterized in that the] comprising securing a sensor [(2) is se-cured]] in a holding means [(6) and in that thereafter,]] and in compulsory guided manner, applying at least the electrolyte [(3) is applied]] onto the sensor head [(2a)] and providing the sensor head [(2a) is then provided]] with a membrane [(4)] which covers the electrolyte [(3)].

20. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] A method in accordance with claim 19, [[characterized in that] wherein the membrane [(4)] is supplied to the sensor head [(2a)] with a reproducible pressing force defined by a spring in order to reproducibly [(dis-place)] displace electrolyte [(3)] present between the membrane [(4)] and the sensor head [(2a)] in such a way that in each case a reproducible layer thickness of electrolyte [(3)] arises between the membrane [(4)] and the sensor head [(2a)].

21. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] A method in accordance with claim 19 [[or 20, characterized in that,]] comprising removing [[compulsory guided,]] the original membrane [[is first removed]] from the sensor head in a compulsory guided manner [(2a)], cleaning the sensor head [(2a) is thereafter cleaned,]] depositing the electro-lyte [(3) is thereafter deposited]] on the sensor head [(2a)] and connecting a mem-brane [(4) is thereafter connected]] to the sensor [(2)].

22. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] A method in accordance with claim 21, [[characterized in that]] wherein the compulsory guidance takes place in such a way that the sensor [(2)] is secured within a housing [(5)] and in that [[the]] individual steps at the sensor [(2)] are compulsorily guided by rotation of a part of the housing [(5)].

23. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the means for dispensing the membrane includes at least a pressing body including at least a pressing surface, wherein the pressing body is arranged such that the pressing surface contacts the membrane in a real manner during the dispensing of the membrane in order to displace electrolyte located

APPLICANT: Häner, Paul, et al.
SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned
FILED: Herewith

Page 9

between the membrane and the sensor head in such a way that the sensor connected to the membrane has a reproducible layer thickness of the electrolyte and has a uniform a layer thickness of the electrolyte, between the sensor head and the membrane.

24. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein the housing base and the housing cover are releasably connectable to one another by a mutual rotary movement.

25. (New) Apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein the common carrier is formed as a disposable part.

26. (New) A common carrier in accordance with claim 15 comprising a first connection part which defines an axis of rotation wherein the container, the membrane, a means for cleaning and a means for the removal of the membrane are arranged spaced apart in a peripheral direction with respect to the axis of rotation.